

To whom it may concern,

For the sake of Connecticut children's education, the Sheff v. O'Neill settlement agreement cannot fall through. As an educator I believe that it is a primary responsibility of the state to ensure that students' educations are free from racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic segregation. As Connecticut is one of the most segregated states in the country, high-quality integrated education for all has yet to be seen.

For decades, students have been minoritized and denied equal access to holistic education and experiences due to redlining, underfunding, and systemic racism. As a student in Farmington High School, I see the effects of this daily. I need not remind you that the reason we are in this position is, among other things, prior legislation passed by the CT General Assembly to establish school district lines and distribute more funding to schools in the surrounding suburbs than schools in the city of Hartford which, again due to redlining, has a greater population of students of color. As state legislators, the very least you can do now is uphold the Sheff v. O'Neill settlement and fulfill your duty to the children of Connecticut.

We cannot call ourselves supporters of education and refuse to take the steps necessary to improve it. Equitable opportunity to schools with the funding and resources to support students as they are, not put them second because of their race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status is the absolute bare minimum. This settlement is long overdue. We cannot continue to let racism, classism, or any other system of oppression pollute Connecticut students' experiences.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
James P Carter